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New Iraqi President Elected, Government Formation Process Continues

The Parliament of Iraq has elected Abdul Latif Rashid as President of the Republic of Iraq, a significant step toward the formation of a new Iraqi government. President Rashid took the oath of office on Thursday, and his first act as president was to invite Muhammad Shia Al-Sudani to form the new Iraqi government as Prime Minister-designate. That begins a 30-day process for Al-Sudani to put together a government that meets the approval of the Iraqi Parliament.

The current prime minister, Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, immediately congratulated Al-Sudani for being chosen to form the new government and called on all political forces to cooperate with the prime minister-designate. Similarly, Iraq's most recent president, Barham Salih, congratulated President Rashid and wished him success in his work.

President Rashid, 78, who comes from Sulaymaniyah Governorate in Northern Iraq, served as Minister of Water Resources from 2003 until 2010 and has advised Iraqi presidents since leaving that office. President Rashid worked for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Association earlier in his career. He has a PhD in engineering.

Al-Sudani, 52, comes from Maysan Governorate in Southern Iraq and previously served as Minister of Industry, Minister of Human Rights and Minister of Labor and Social Affairs. He also served as the governor of Maysan in southeastern Iraq and, if confirmed by Parliament, would become the first Prime Minister of Iraq who did not spend time in exile during Saddam Hussein's dictatorship. He has degrees in agricultural sciences and project management.

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The Prime Minister-designate, Mr. Muhammad Shiaa Al-Sudani, received yesterday evening, Sunday, the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Mrs. Alina Romanowski.

The meeting witnessed discussions on bilateral relations and common interests between the two countries and ways to develop them, and the importance of working together to enhance security and stability in Iraq and the region during the next stage of cooperation.

The meeting also witnessed Mr. Al-Sudani's affirmation of Iraq's desire to consolidate a strategic partnership relationship with the United States by further advancing the Strategic Framework Agreement in its various economic, educational, cultural, and political aspects and issues related to countering the effects of climate change, as well as security cooperation in the field of providing assistance, advice and enablement to the Iraqi security forces.

The Prime Minister-designate expressed the future government's keenness to continue the dialogue at the national level inside and outside Parliament, and to strive to resolve internal contentious issues.

Al-Sudani stressed the importance of building distinguished and balanced international relations, in the interest of the Iraqi people, and building bridges of cooperation with brotherly and friendly peoples in the regional and international spheres.

For her part, the U.S. Ambassador affirmed the U.S. government's support for a secure, stable, prosperous and unified federal and sovereign Iraq, and expressed her country's readiness to help Iraq in the fight against corruption. She welcomed Mr. Al-Sudani's focus on his quest to achieve progress in this file. She also conveyed the U.S. government's desire to continue cooperating with Iraq to defeat ISIS remnants and combat terrorism, noting that Iraq represents an essential and strategic component in the region.

**Media Office of the Prime Minister-designate
October 17, 2022**

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**The Newly Elected Iraq President Assumes Office at Ceremony Held at Al-Salam Palace
2022/10/17**

The presidential inauguration ceremony was held for the newly elected President Abdullatif Jamal Rashid on Monday, October 17, 2022, at al-Salam Palace in Baghdad to take office.

Former President Fuad Masum attended the ceremony alongside the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Bafel Talabani, Iraq's First Lady Shanaz Ibrahim Ahmed, the First Deputy Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, Mr, Muhsin Al-Mandalawi, the Second Deputy Speaker of Iraqi Parliament, Shakhawan Abdullah as well as a number of leaders and representatives of Iraqi political blocs and parties.

Iraq's national anthem was played, while the President of the Republic of Iraq, Abdullatif Jamal Rashid inspected the guard of honor who lined up to salute His Excellency.

President Abdullatif's inauguration address is as follows:

"In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

First, I would like to welcome you for attending this ceremony, I appreciate your support, namely in the previous phase experienced by our country, it was a really difficult time for everybody.

I wish you all the best and success in the next stage to help ensure a strong, stable, and peaceful Iraq.

I am very grateful to the Iraqi Lawmakers, the Iraqi people's representatives in the Parliament, who granted me the confidence to serve as the President of the Republic of Iraq. I also thank the Supreme Religious Authority, the leaders of Iraq's political powers, and everyone who worked for this end.

I hail the great role played by actors, electoral supervisors and the Iraqi security forces who created the optimal conditions to conduct the general elections.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While taking office today, I recall the ultimate sacrifices made by the martyrs and wounded security forces of all kinds, PMF, and Peshmerga. Therefore, their families' pain and their families' patience can't be forgotten.

Meanwhile, we have to keep in mind what the Iraqi have been waiting for to shape a new government. We hope that the new government will be formed sooner.

It is of critical importance that a robust, efficient, and unified government that is able to effectively address the Iraqi people's legitimate demands for security and stability.

And this included better public services to rebuild schools and roads, increase power generation capacity, build hospitals as well as maintaining water wealth and other natural resources.

Furthermore, I will do my best to bridge differences, build confidence, and foster dialogue among various actors and political rivals in Iraq in order to achieve this goal.

However, I will exert all my efforts to do perfectly my duties to protect the Iraqi constitution and preserve and defend Iraq's sovereignty, integrity and independence.

We should also bear in mind that the solution to the lingering issues between the Federal government and the KRG should be found according to the Iraqi constitution.

I will step up and focus my efforts on building a strong and balanced relationship between Iraq and its neighbors and the International community in the pursuit of great peace and security for all.

This particular speech is delivered on the presidential inauguration ceremony. And pretty soon I will announce to the Iraqi my practical program as the President of the Republic of Iraq.

Thank you."

<https://presidency.iq/EN/Details.aspx?id=3651>

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